THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to provisional information the production loss as a result of strikes and lockouts during 1999 was Rs. 632 crores.

(c) During 1999 Tamil Nadu recorded the maximum number of strikes & lockouts followed by West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, and Gujarat.

(d) For fostering harmonious relations between the workers and the management, have Government has been covening Tripartite Meetings to consider the views of various social partners on important issues concerning them. The conciliation machinery has also been strengthened and several strikes have been averted as a result of timely intervention of the Government.

Low Wages

3354. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the minimum daily wages fixed by Government and State Governments for the labourers is very low in the light of rise in the prices of essential commodities;

(b) if so, whether government propose to increase these wages; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT AFFAIRS (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) In accordance with the provisions of Minimum Wages Act, 1948, both Central and the State Governments are the "appropriate Government' to notify, fix, review and revise the minimum wages of the workers employed in the scheduled employments. The State/Union Territory Governments were asked to take into account the basic needs like food, clothing, rent, fuel, lighting and other miscellaneous requirements such as children education, medical requirement, minimum recreation, provision for old age etc. while fixing/revising minimum wages as per recommendations of the Indian Labour Conference in 1957 and Supreme Court judgement. Further, there is a provision for Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) linked to Consumer Price Index (CPI) as a component of minimum wages. The Central Government as well as 20 State Governments have already made provision of VDA linked to CPI so as to protect the interests of workers

against inflation. The Act also provides for revision of minimum wages at an interval of 5 years. The Central Government has introduced a floor level minimum wage in the absence of a uniform national minimum wages, which has been recently increased to Rs. 45/- per day in November, 1999. All the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have been asked to ensure that the minimum wages in scheduled employments are not less than the floor level wages.

Bonus Bonanza

3355. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem, "Bonus bonanza on the cards" published in the Hindustan Times, dated 29th July, 2000;

(b) if so, the reaction thereto;

(c) the financial impact of the proposal to revise the upper wage ceiling of the eligibility and the Indian Corporate Wage Bill; and

(d) to what extent is bonus bonanza justified in the existing given financial scenario?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT AFFAIRS (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government is seized of the demand made by the central Trade Union Organisations for removal of the eligibility limit and calculation ceiling for the purpose of payment of bonus.

Bonus to workers of Organised Sector

3356. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large proportion of the organised sector workers have been denied their entitlement to payment of Bonus even while scores of public employees including Government employees are getting payment of bonus in some form or the other; and